

Message Text

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TAGS: OCON, ESCAP

SUBJECT: ESCAP: INTERGOVERNMENTAL EXPERT GROUP MEETING
ON INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT, TOKYO, FEBRUARY 1-7, 1977

REF: BANGKOK 34628 AND PREVIOUS

1. U.S. PARTICIPANT IN SUBJECT MEETING WILL BE CALVIN
MARTIN OF AID ASIA BUREAU (ASIA/TR/ARD). PLEASE ADVISE
SECRETARIAT. FOR REASONS OUTLINED BELOW AID/W AND STATE
BELIEVE USOM DIRECTOR GLADSON SHOULD NOT RPT NOT ATTEND.
(SEE GLADSON/TOOMEY MEMO OF NOVEMBER 15, 1976.)

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PAGE 02 STATE 013164

2. THE JAPAN/FAO MEETINGS WHICH ARE AMONG THE ANTECEDENTS
OF THIS MEETING WERE PRIMARILY GATHERINGS OF TECHNICAL
PERSONNEL INTENDED TO ADDRESS TECHNICAL QUESTIONS REGARDING
FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT PRO-
GRAMS IN THE REGION. THEY ALSO SERVED AS A MEANS OF
ESTABLISHING COMMUNICATION BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN

THIS FIELD.

3. WE BELIEVE CURRENT MEETING SHOULD SERVE THE SAME PURPOSES AND MARTIN WILL ATTEND PURSUANT TO THESE PURPOSES. SUCH A GATHERING CAN MAKE A MEANINGFUL CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ESCAP WORK PROGRAM AND PLAN OF ACTION (AS DIRECTED IN ESCAP RESOLUTION 161 (XXXII) THROUGH ITS

TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS. HOWEVER, MEETING IS NOT APPROPRIATE FORUM FOR THE ENDORSEMENT OR ADOPTION OF THESE DOCUMENTS, WHICH MUST BE CONSIDERED IN RELATION TO OTHER ELEMENTS OF ESCAP'S TOTAL PROGRAM BY THE APPROPRIATE LEGISLATIVE BODIES (COMMITTEES AND PLENARY). NEITHER CAN MEETING APPROPRIATELY CONSIDER OR DECIDE POLICY REGARDING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES IN THE INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT FIELD. IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT QUITE ASIDE FROM THE QUESTION OF THE APPROPRIATENESS OF THIS FORUM, IT IS CLEAR FROM DOCUMENTATION AND OTHER INFORMATION PROVIDED TO DATE THAT INADEQUATE SECRETARIAT PREPARATIONS WILL LIMIT THE ABILITY OF THE MEETING TO DEAL WITH THESE ISSUES.

4. MARTIN WILL AVOID INVOLVEMENT IN ANY SUCH POLICY QUESTIONS. BELIEVE IT PREFERABLE THAT GLADSON NOT ATTEND IN ORDER TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT U.S. PARTICIPATION IS PURELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF TECHNICAL DISCUSSION.

5. GUIDANCE ON TECHNICAL ISSUES CURRENTLY BEING PREPARED IN WASHINGTON.
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PAGE 03 STATE 013164

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